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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Western swamp tortoise (*Pseudemydura umbrina*)

The western swamp tortoise is the world's most endangered turtle or tortoise. It is only known to occur in Perth's Swan Valley, and its decline has been due to land clearing, drainage and predation by foxes.

There is a single remaining wild population of about 35 tortoises in the Ellen Brook Nature Reserve, near Upper Swan.

A Recovery Plan is under way, and research carried out at the University of WA, combined with a captive breeding program at Perth Zoo, has resulted in an increase in the number of captive tortoises from less than 20 to more than 100 in 1995. Reintroductions of captive bred tortoises began in 1994 and are continuing.

Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*)

WA's State faunal emblem, the numbat, lives on a staple diet of termites. It used to be widespread across southern arid and semi-arid parts of Australia, but now only survives in WA.

There are two naturally occurring populations, and one self-sustaining reintroduced population in south-west WA.

Once again, predation by foxes is high on the list of threats to the numbat, along with habitat destruction.

Grand spider orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*)

This robust spider orchid grows to a height of 60 centimetres within sandy banksia, sheoak and jarrah woodlands between Perth and Yallingup. It flowers between August and September.

Hinged dragon orchid (*Drakonorchis drakeoides*)

This orchid has unusual flowers with a hinged lip, giving it an insect-like quality. The flowers release a powerful pheromone that attracts male wasps to act as pollinators.

There are 12 populations of the hinged dragon orchid in the northern and western Wheatbelt. Together, they contain several hundred plants, but significant threats still exist in the form of rising salinity and habitat degradation.

CALM is preparing an Interim Recovery Plan for the species, and listing urgent recovery actions that are needed to ensure its survival in the wild.

Sandpaper wattle (*Acacia denticulosa*)

This large, coarse shrub features spectacular rods of flowers that grow up to eight centimetres in length. The shrub itself grows to four metres and is confined to a few granite outcrops in the Beacon-Mt Churchman area. It flowers from August to November.

Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*)

This fierce little predator really stands out because of the surprising white spots that fleck its brown coat.

It used to occupy more than 70 per cent of the continent—every mainland State as well as the Northern Territory—but is now restricted to the south-west of WA.

Damage to its habitat due to land clearing, grazing and frequent wildfire are partly responsible, along with competition for food, predation by cats and foxes, hunting and poisoning.

ADOPTIONS

Adopting an animal at Perth Zoo is a potent way to become part of a worldwide movement to save wildlife and protect the future of life on Earth.

Your adoption will be recognised with an official Adoption Certificate and a bumper sticker for your car.

Family/Individual: \$40

\$60 framed (including post and packaging)

Business/Club: \$150 framed (including post and packaging)

ZOO FRIENDS

Becoming a Zoo Friend entitles you to many benefits, including:

- ◆ Free entry to the Zoo for 12 months.
- ◆ Exclusive 'Behind the Scenes' events and members only opportunities
- ◆ 10 per cent discount on Zoo Shop merchandise
- ◆ A regular copy of Zoo's newsletter *Sanctuary*
- ◆ Free entry to associated zoos throughout Australia
- ◆ Car sticker

Individual Membership

Adult:

\$50

Child (9-15 years):

\$40

Under 8 (Numbat Club):

\$24

Family Membership

(residing at same mailing address)

1st Adult:

\$40

Additional Adults:

\$26

Child (9-15 years):

\$16

Under 8 (Numbat Club):

\$12

For details please contact the Perth Zoo Society on (09) 474 4166

Recovering from the brink



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT



PERTH ZOO
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PAM01976

Throughout Western Australia, recovery teams are working to bring many threatened plant and animal species back from the brink of extinction.

The key to success for these conservation programs is support from government, the corporate sector and the community.

Through your purchase of a 'Threatened Species' commemorative birth certificate, you have made a personal contribution towards conserving our State's unique environmental heritage.

Five per cent of the proceeds from the sale of the 'Threatened Species' series go into a trust fund used for threatened species conservation projects.

The money helps the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and partners in their fight to bring Western Australia's threatened species back from the brink of extinction.

As lead agency in the set-up of recovery teams, CALM's WA Threatened Species & Communities Unit (WATSCU) faces the difficult task of deciding which of the 370 Western Australian plants and animals on the threatened list to support.

In order to be as effective as possible, WATSCU enlists the help of all stakeholders. For example, in the case of the Western Swamp Tortoise, this includes the Perth Zoo, the University of Western Australia, Curtin University, the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, the World Wide Fund for Nature Australia and the Shire of Swan, as well as CALM.

By bringing together scientists, land managers, landowners, local government councillors, financiers, conservation society members and volunteers, CALM is investing wisely in the future of Western Australia and its priceless biodiversity.

Your support for the 'Threatened Species' series of commemorative birth certificates has benefited the following local species.

Short-billed black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*)

Otherwise known as Carnaby's cockatoo, these large birds can often be seen flying over Perth and foraging in suburban gardens.

They breed mainly in the summer months, and form flocks to migrate to the coastal plain in winter. High numbers used to frequent the whole of south-western WA, but land clearing for agriculture, overgrazing and nest robbing for the bird trade have taken their toll.

Tangled grevillea (*Grevillea flexuosa*)

Otherwise known as the zigzag grevillea, this species was first collected in 1839, but not seen again in the wild until 1985. It has conspicuous creamy white flowers and is restricted to a few locations between Stoneville and Toodyay.

It grows in sand among granite rocks, and flowers from winter to early spring, attracting insect pollinators.

Black-flanked rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*)

This wallaby used to frequent granite outcrops and sandstone cliffs in central and southern WA, but has disappeared from most of its former range.

Fox attack is presumed to be the main cause of extinction, with other possible threats including predation by feral cats and degradation of habitat due to the grazing activities of sheep and rabbits.

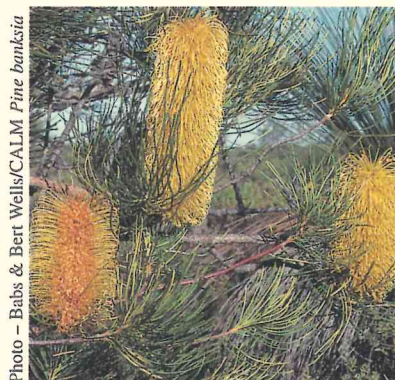


Photo - Babs & Bert Wells/CALM Pine banksia



Photo - Babs & Bert Wells/CALM Woylie

Woylie (*Bettonia penicillata*)

Until very recently, the woylie was classified as a threatened species, but it is one of CALM's success stories. A comprehensive recovery plan has been tremendously successful, and the woylie's status has been downgraded to 'conservation dependent'.

The woylie is the first threatened species ever to be removed from the endangered species list as a direct result of a recovery program.

Natural populations are present at Dryandra Woodland, Perup Nature Reserve and Tutanning Nature Reserve. There are also transplanted populations thriving elsewhere in WA and South Australia.

Habitat destruction, competition with rabbits and sheep, and predation by foxes and feral cats are thought to be the key factors in its decline throughout this century.

Pine banksia (*Banksia tricuspis*)

This pine-like shrub or small tree grows to about four metres and has long, spiky leaves. It occurs on rocky slopes and heath and is adorned with distinctive banksia flowers between May and September.

Dampier pittosporum (*Pittosporum mollucanum*)

The Dampier pittosporum is a shrub or tree that has been known to grow up to 20 metres in height, but WA specimens rarely reach more than five metres.

It occurs in only one known location on WA's Dampier Peninsula.